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June 14, 1916

No. 7142, Memorandum on the  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH  
by the Rockefeller Foundation

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In recognition of the urgent need in the United States of improved opportunities for training in preventive medicine and public health work, and after careful study of the situation, the Rockefeller Foundation has decided to establish a School of Hygiene and Public Health in Baltimore in connection with the Johns Hopkins University, where it is believed that the close association with the Johns Hopkins Medical School and Hospital and with the School of Engineering of the University furnish especially favorable conditions for the location of such a school. Dr. William H. Welch, now Professor of Pathology, and Dr. William H. Howell, Professor of Physiology in the University, will undertake the organization of the new school in its inception. The Trustees of Johns Hopkins University have appointed Dr. Welch as director of the School, and Dr. Howell as head of the Physiological Department.

Funds will be provided by the Foundation for the purchase of a site and the erection of a suitable building, in proximity to the hospital and the medical laboratories, to serve as the institute of hygiene, which will be the central feature of the School. Here will be housed various laboratories and departments needed in such a school, such as those of sanitary chemistry, of physiology as applied to hygiene, of bacteriology and protozoology, of epidemiology and industrial hygiene, of vital statistics, a museum, library, etc. Additional facilities for instruction and research will be supplied by the medical and engineering schools, the hospital, and other departments of the University. Funds will be provided by the Foundation for the maintenance of the School in accordance with plans which have been submitted.

It is expected that the School will be opened in October, 1917, as it is estimated that a year will be required for the construction and equipment of the institute and the gathering together of the staff of teachers.

As it is recognized that the profession of the sanitarian and worker in

preventive medicine, however closely connected, is not identical with that of the practitioner of medicine and requires a specialized training, the School of Hygiene and Public Health, while working in cooperation with the medical school, will have an independent existence under the University, coordinate with the medical school.

The School is designed to furnish educational and scientific opportunities of a high order for the cultivation of the various sciences which find application in hygiene, sanitation, and preventive medicine, and for the training of medical students, physicians, engineers, chemists, biologists, and others properly prepared, who wish to be grounded in the principles of these subjects, and above all for the training of those who desire to fit themselves for careers in public health work in its various branches. The most urgent need at the present time is provision for the training of prospective health officials and for supplementary and advanced courses for those already engaged in public health service. Satisfactory completion of work in the School will be suitably recognized by the bestowal of certificates and degrees.

It is anticipated that mutually helpful relations will be established with municipal and state departments of health and the federal Public Health Service, whereby opportunities will be afforded for field work and other practical experience in various departments of public health work. Especially advantageous will be the relations with the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, which is engaged in the study and control, not only of hookworm, but also of malaria, yellow fever, and other tropical diseases in various parts of the world.

The influence and usefulness of the School of Hygiene and Public Health will be extended toward education of the public by exhibits, lectures, and other means in a better appreciation and understanding of the importance and needs of public and personal hygiene, in cooperative efforts for the training of public health nurses, and in other directions.

The benefits to be expected from the establishment of such a school as that contemplated will not be measured solely by the number of students trained within its walls. A far-reaching influence should be exerted upon the advancement of

the science and the improvement of the practice of public health, in establishing higher standards and better methods of professional education in this field, in stimulating the founding of similar institutions in other parts of the country, in supplying teachers, and in cooperating with boards of health and other medical schools.